

EDITORIAL

It is time for a separate Technological University

As the time passes, conditions change and the existing institutions are not found to serve the purpose for which they were designed for. Hence, there is a need for review of such institutions and organisations from time to time; there is a need for review of such institutions and organisations from time to time; there is a need for discarding status quo mentality; a need for a spirit of experimentation and venture. Without this, the old institution become outdated, irrelevant and people start blaming the institutions but do little to analyse the situation, identify the causes and to find remedies and new approaches to the problems. Affiliation of Engineering Colleges to general universities is one such a case.

In Maharashtra upto 1982-83, there were only 7 Engineering Colleges which were affiliated to one of the seven general universities in the state. Now, we have about 65 Engineering Colleges but the number of general universities are almost the same. Can these universities to which the number of Engineering Colleges affiliated range to 8 to 18 per university, cater to the needs and fulfill the aspirations, meet the demands that Engineering Education makes on them? In the past, the functions of an Engineering College was simply to turn out Engineering Graduates, and the university did this job excellently well by laying down admission rules, Eligibility conditions, prescribing the syllabi holding the examinations and awarding the degrees. Today, the demands of Engineering Education have become multifold.

Teaching and instructions which are the main functions of an Engineering College, have not remain simple but have acquired the status of a technique; curriculum Development has become a science by itself; technology watch, entrepreneurship & technology parks have become a necessity; liaison with industry, a must; Research & Development has acquired great significance and, as if, this is not enough, continuing Education & community or extension services are something which impart meaning & excellence have become the land marks which must be paid special attention.

What is the contribution of a general university to these activities which a good engineering college must undertake? What is the guidance, direction and support they provide for this? And if they cannot, we must find a way out.

Technological universities of affiliating type is the answer to this problem. Such a university can bring together the Educationists, the Industrialists and the R & D scientists together. Only such an organisational set up can be expected to appreciate and respond to the fast changing technological environment and cater to the need & the demands of the trade & the industry and work for the betterment of the people of India. It is time, now, that we go in for technological affiliating type of universities where un-precedented expansion has taken place in Engineering Education e.g. Maharashtra, Karnatak & Andhra Pradesh.

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